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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/927,103

08/10/2001

Michael Priestley

CA920010055US1

3897

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7590

12/14/2006

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EXAMINER

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/927,103

Applicant(s)

PRIESTLEY, MICHAEL

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12-15, & 17-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12-15 and 17-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/24/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 24-August-2006 has been entered.
2. The IDS filed on 24-August-2006 has been received and entered. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, and 17-21 are pending.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 12, 18, and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 18, and 19, all recite intended use statements such as “for creating” and “for identifying” which do not provide a limiting functionality. The limitations following the phrase “*for*” describes only intended use but not necessarily required functionality of the claim. Limitations following the phrase “*for*” do not carry patentable weight, which cause the claims to appear as a series of non-functional descriptive material/data without any functional relation with each other. Applicant is required to amend the claims so that the claim limitations are recited in a definite direct form requiring the functionality i.e. “to”, “that”, or “creating”. Correction is required.

Claims 3-4, and 10, all re-introduce the recitation of “a unit of target information” although previously introduced in preceding claims. Is this a new instant of “unit of information” being presented? Or is this a reference to the previously introduced “unit of information” therefore lacks antecedent basis. If so, claims should be amended to recite “said unit” or “the unit”. Clarification is required.

Claims 5, 12, and 19, all recite “for inter-linking” which is passive language and suggestion intended use. Claims should be amended to recite, “of inter-linking” as a suggested example.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the system" in line 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "said system" in line 20. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are software per se only since

they raise the question to whether the storing, identifying, and inserting ...etc. would all reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Applicant's disclosure as potentially being software routines. If so, the claims includes an embodiment directed to software, per se, since the claimed system lacks inclusion of the hardware necessary for any of the underlying functionality to be realized. For those claims to be statutory, at least one of the elements must include hardware in accordance with the disclosure.

For Independent claims 1, there does not appear to be enough support in the specification for the "means" to be anything more than software modules. Although the preamble is directed to "a link management system", the components i.e. "means" could be software only. The body of the claim is missing hardware components.

For claim 8, there appears to be no hardware tied to the method steps in order to realize their functionality. They instead appear to be series of functional steps missing hardware components. The claim should be amended to recite computer hardware in the body of the claim.

For claim 15, is directly solely to a computer program which requires hardware to realize its functionality.

All the dependent claims appear to carry the same deficiency.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Although no rejections in view of prior art are made, no claims in this application will be indicated as allowable until after a response to this action has been reviewed, as to the fact that certain changes may not produce allowable claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, and 17-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

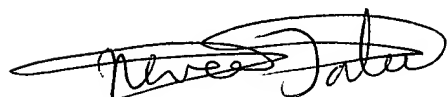
Smith, III, Julius O. (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,139 B1) teaches use of hyperlinks in Web pages.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2165

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niveen Jalil', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Neveen Abel-Jalil
December 9, 2006